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REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 18-20, and 22-45 are presented for examination.

1. The title has been amended to read "Firing Furnace and Firing Method."

2. Editorial changes for clarity have been made in claims 1-15, 18-20 and 22-35. Claims 16, 17 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 36-45 have been added.

Claim 36 depending from claim 4, recites the limitations of claim 5; claim 37 depending from claim 4, recites the limitations of claim 14; claim 38 depending from claim 5, recites the limitations of claim 14; claim 39 depending from claim 4, recites the limitations of claim 15; claim 40 depending from claim 5, recites the limitations of claim 15; claim 41 depending from claim 22, recites the limitations of claim 23; claim 42 depending from claim 22, recites the limitations of claim 32; claim 43 depending from claim 23, recites the limitations of claim 32; and claims 44 and 45,

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respectively depending from claims 22 and 23, recite the limitations of claim 33.


Filed herewith is a Declaration, Assignment and a Verified English-Language Translation.

An early examination and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

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Date


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